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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR COMPILING A LEXICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A lexical knowledge base is compiled automatically from a machine-readable source (such as an on-line dictionary or unstructured text). The preferred embodiment of the invention makes use of "backward linking," by which inverse semantic relations are discerned from the text and used to augment the knowledge base. By this arrangement, on-line dictionaries and other texts can provide formidable sources of "common sense" knowledge about the world.

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